Relining of blast furnaces in IISCO

897. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 227 given in Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether approval has been given for relining of blast furnace No. 4 in the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether order for procurement has been released;

(c) the lead time for procurement of items like refractories;

(d) the condition of blast furnace No. 3 and whether the same will last till relining of blast furnace No. 4; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to ensure operations in IISCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The approval for relining of blast furnace No.4 has not yet been accorded by the Board of Directors of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The lead time for procurement of refractories is about 12 months.

(d) and (e) The condition of blast furnace No. 3 is not satisfactory. However, efforts are being made to run this furnace by adopting technical measures for hearth strengthening so that operations at IISCO are not affected.

Performance of Steel Sector

898. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of Steel